

## INTER PROCESS COMMUNICATIONS IN A DISTRIBUTED CP AND NP ENVIRONMENT

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A lightweight, low cost solution provides inter process  
5 communications (IPC) in a network processing environment. A method of  
inter process communication (IPC) between General Purpose Processors in a  
network processing environment uses software based functions (Application  
Program Interfaces (APIs)) that enable inter process communication between  
processors in a network processing environment. The software enabled  
10 functions open and close inter process communication paths for transmitting  
and receiving of inter process communication frames and allow the inter  
process communication frames to be transmitted to one or several processors  
in said network processing environment. The software has the capability of  
selecting either data or control path in said network processing environment to  
15 transmit or receive said inter process communication frames.